



# Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

## Newsletter no 16 / Spring Term / 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018



| Jan                  | Time                      | Event  |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> | 15.00-17.15               | Netball – Minor A & Intermediate teams v Sullivan Upper (A)  |
| Tue 16 <sup>th</sup> | 15.20start<br>15.00 start | Netball - Juniors v Bangor Academy – (A) – Return: 17.00<br>Football - U11 Football Team v Kilmaine PS @ Aurora LC |
| Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> | 13.15-16.30               | Netball - Minor A & Intermediate teams v Regent House (A)  |
| Thu 18 <sup>th</sup> | 14.00-16.30               | Netball - Minor A/Minor B & Intermediate teams v Glenlola Collegiate @ Aurora LC                                   |
| Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> |                           | Belfast Giants Trip  |

## Headmaster's Headlines

**Welcome Back:** Save a bit of storm damage as a result of *Eleanor* last week (5 trees down) we are now fully back in harness unscathed and ready for the busy term ahead.

**Gift Aid:** Our Carol Service in Holywood at the end of term seems a lifetime ago but I was reminded of the event (and of the generosity of our parents and children) earlier this week when Mrs Palmer opened the following letter from the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children:

*Dear Mrs Palmer and pupils of Rockport School,*

*On behalf of the children attending the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, may I thank you for the wonderful variety of gifts that were donated to the hospital at your Carol Service. I believe that the gifts were to be something that you would have liked to receive yourself, and I could see that they were carefully chosen. The items for older children were extremely welcome, as they often feel they get forgotten about!*

*As I mentioned at the service, we had about 60 children staying over in the hospital on Christmas Eve. Some of the gifts were used then and the rest will be used for birthdays throughout the year. We have a huge amount of birthdays and the gifts will be extremely useful.*

*May I also say how much I enjoyed the Carol Service. Everyone was extremely well behaved and very talented and I am sure your parents enjoyed it too.*

*Many thanks for thinking about us.*

Yours sincerely,

*Jenne McDonald  
Play Development Coordinator RBHSC*

**Short Term Problems:** With an early Easter approaching, this term is by definition a short one, with two sessions of only five weeks straddling either side of half term. The challenge is that we still have to try to shoehorn all those extra-curricular events which traditionally take place throughout every Spring term into the limited time available: January GCSE Examinations; Open Morning; Parent Teacher Evenings; Board of Governors Meeting; Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions; Round Square Regional Conference; Boarding NI launch; Marketing trips to Beijing, Hong Kong and London; the Darren Clarke Grammar Schools' Golf League; RDS production; Founder's Day; Choral Speaking Competitions; Ulster Schools' Golf Cup games; Netball Leagues; Football Leagues; Rugby Blitz; Indoor Athletics; Cross Country Championships; R7 residential trip to Edinburgh; to mention a few (and *not* to mention after-school school clubs). So, when you see that 6ft white rabbit walking around school at the end of term, you may be forgiven for thinking that you have finally lost the plot, but it will only be Mr Shiel disguised as the PTA Easter Bunny.

**George Vance  
Headmaster**



## **Duke of Edinburgh Award**

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award reflects many of the ideals which underpin everything we do here at Rockport: encouraging our students to develop leadership skills, instilling an awareness of the environment, providing an opportunity to serve others and cultivating a strong sense of adventure. We are proud that so many of our students choose to embark on this demanding, but ultimately rewarding, enterprise.

### **Bronze (Year 10)**

Those pupils interested in completing the bronze award should please attend the meetings planned **from Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January – End of June from 1.15 pm – 1.40 pm in Mrs. McBride's room.**

### **Silver (Year 11)**

Those pupils interested in completing the silver award should please attend the meetings planned **from Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January – End of June from 1.15 pm – 1.40 pm in Mrs. Megarry's room.**

Training will also involve a few Thursday evenings from 4.30 pm – 5.30 pm in the better weather to carry out training outside such as camp craft, orienteering, map skills, etc.

**Mrs. McBride / Mrs. Megarry**

### **R6 Homework**

Parents of R6 pupils may have noticed that homework has been stepped up a notch. Please also note that weekend work has been set. This should be completed for Monday morning.

### **R7 Trip to Edinburgh**

All R7 pupils have received information letters about our forthcoming trip to Edinburgh. I would be grateful if parents could read these and return completed permission slips by Monday morning so that we can move forward with the necessary arrangements. Thank you

**Suzanne McCartney**  
**R6 Form teacher**

## **Belfast Giants Trip      Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Pupils who have purchased tickets for the Belfast Giants Match (mainly R7 and some Boarders) will be staying in school on Friday afternoon. Dinner will be provided in school and we will be travelling by coach to the Odyssey at 6pm. Provided the match does not go into extra time we are due to return to school by 10.00pm. **All pupils** will return on the coach to school. Please do not pick up your child from the Odyssey as this can cause problems with large crowds / parking / meeting time etc. We would appreciate your co-operation in this. Pupils should be collected from school at 10pm. Pupils can bring their own money to spend for refreshments or in the Giants Shop. Recommended limit is £10. Any queries please contact me on [creid@rockportschool.com](mailto:creid@rockportschool.com)

## **Spring Clubs**

Please find attached a list of clubs for this next 6 week block. Clubs will run from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February (excluding the Half Term week). Please discuss with your son or daughter which clubs they would like to attend. Any queries please contact [creid@rockportschool.com](mailto:creid@rockportschool.com)

**Colin Reid**  
**Head of Faculty**

## **RDS Rehearsal Schedule**

\*Please note ALL remaining full cast rehearsals each Wednesday and Thursday from 17<sup>th</sup> January will take place between 4.10pm-7pm in the Tucker Hall (supper will be provided).

## **Show dates:**

**Wednesday 7th February**

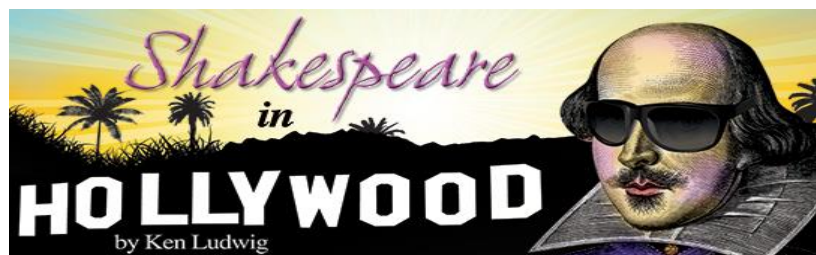
**Thursday 8th February**

Ticket information will be in the Newsletter next week.

## **\*Extra Rehearsal- Saturday 3rd February**

We will be having a full cast rehearsal during our school open morning between 9.30am-12.30pm.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



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## Clubs - Spring Term 2018

Clubs will begin next week, beginning Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Please return registration forms and payment at your earliest convenience to secure your child's place.

|           |                     |                |               |
|-----------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Tuesday   | Monkeynastics       | Playgroup – R1 | 2.00pm-2.40pm |
|           |                     | R2-R4          | 3.00pm-3.40pm |
| Wednesday | Primary Yoga        | Playgroup – R1 | 2.00pm-2.40pm |
|           |                     | R2-R4          | 2.00pm-2.45pm |
| Thursday  | Speech and<br>Drama | R1             | 2.00pm-2.30pm |
|           |                     | R2-R4          | 3.00pm-4.00pm |

**Lynn Athanasiou**  
**Head of Early Years**